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RHYMES FROM OLD POWDER-HORNS.

II.

SINCE the first paper on old powder-horns appeared in the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*, April-June, 1889, Mr. Rufus A. Grider has greatly enlarged his collection of drawings, and a large number of these will be in the government exhibition at Chicago. He has now over four hundred of these curious and beautiful examples of an article now but little used.

They have attracted attention abroad. In the "New World Book List, Bristol, Old England," 1890, a "powder-horn used by a backwoodsman in Georgian times, engraved with map, etc., illustrating New York State," is advertised for \$30, and the description is fortified by quotations from my former article. From the description, I hardly think this the one on which a late English historical work is based, entitled "Appendiculæ Historiæ; or, Shreds of History hung on a Horn. By Fred. W. Lucas." This was issued in London in 1891, and comprised sketches of the old French war. The class of geographical horns is comparatively large, yet differing much in details as forts rose and fell. Most of them are of New York, though they sometimes embrace a much larger field, and occasionally quite a different one. As before, these will enter but incidentally into this paper.

The rhymes of the colonial period seldom appear on the powder-horns of the Revolution, but I have a few before me. One instance occurs at Syracuse, N. Y., where the inscription is, —

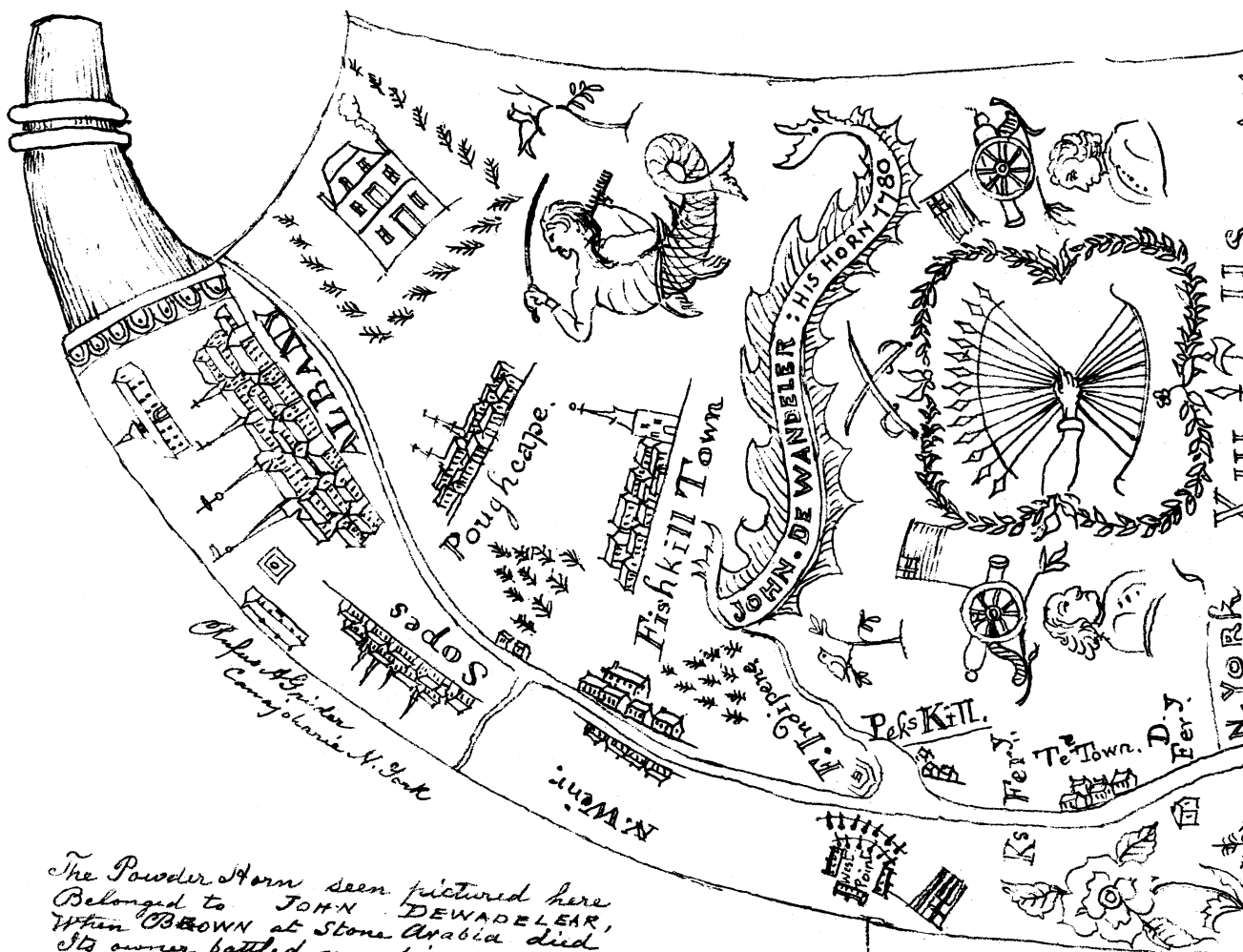
Silas Hoskins his horn
Made at N York Sept^r 12, 1776
& Sent to him A Present by his
Father,
I Powder with, My brother ball.
A hero Like. Do Conquer all.
Success to America.

One at Ipswich, Mass., varies a little, but is somewhat older, so that the patriotic wish is not expressed : —

I Powder, With My Brother Ball
Most. Hero-Like Doth Conquer All.
Jonathan Clark Lewis his. horn made.
By J. G. Febr^r the 27. 1773.

I met with another in Syracuse, which I drew and described for Mr. Grider, and which belongs to a grandson of the maker, for many of these horns are heirlooms. This reads : —

Solomon X plant X his
horn X Made X at X Oswego
in X Canada X September : y^e 14 1760.



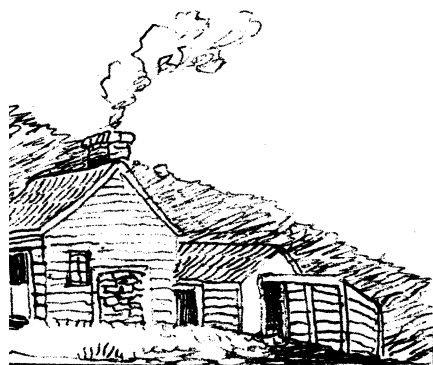
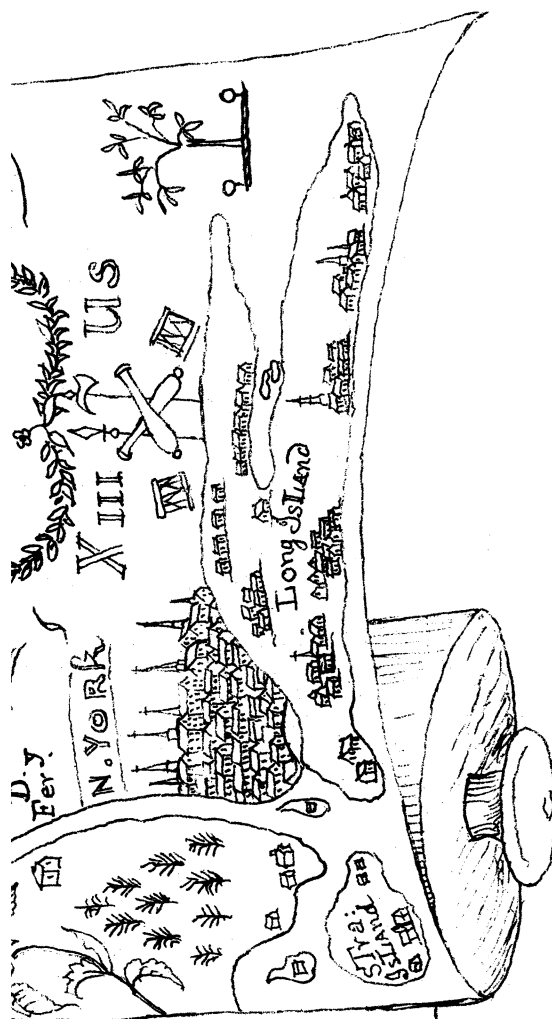
The Powder Horn seen pictured here
 Belonged to JOHN DEWADELEAR,
 When BROWN at Stone Arabia died
 Its owner battled near his side,
 His Scalp was taken & his horn
 A trophy by a Chief, was worn,
 When Civil war at last had ended
 The trophy to a son descended.
 Its owners changed from time to time
 Until it reached our Sam^l Pruyn *
 Who in the year Eighteen sixteen
 Shows how the Indian's home was seen

* The Father of
 its present owner.

Notice the proposed design for a
 Coat of Arms for the U. S. dated 1780.



View of the home of Sco
 sketched by Sam^l Pruyn



of SCONIDA chief of the Oneidas.
 & Bruyn of Albany in 1816.

Mr. Plant told me that his grandfather was quite young when he served as a soldier, and he supposed him mistaken in dating this in Canada. Up to that date, however, the entire St. Lawrence belonged to the French, and it is properly dated just after the capture of the French post near Ogdensburgh, N. Y. Oswegatchie is still locally pronounced Oswegotchee.

My daughter sent me a drawing of a fine horn belonging to the Rev. Dr. Montague, of Colorado Springs, Colo. It is one of the No. 4 horns, of which I have seen several. In an ellipse is, "Made At Charlestown July 5, A D. '759 By Richard Montague." In large and finer letters elsewhere is engraved, "Richard Montague. N^o 4 May 28th 1759. R. M." It has also the lines, "I powder," etc., and the names of some of the birds which appear in other parts. Major Montague had artistic ability, and "descendants of the major remember seeing in their childhood blue and white coverlets woven by his hands in various figures, such as vines, cows, etc." He served in the French war, and when he joined the American army, just before the battle of Bunker Hill, he told his wife that, "if the Lord would forgive him for fighting seven years for the king, he would fight against him the rest of his life."

Among the horns I have drawn in Syracuse is one with a double date, 1761 and 1776. It appears to have been made in the former year, judging from the designs upon it. A strip, from end to end, is left above the general surface, and on this is the couplet, —

Now is the time ye Hearts of Oak
To give our foes a fatal Strke.

One relating to the battle of Ticonderoga, and probably used in it, has a statistical interest, as it gives the British loss in that disastrous engagement, on which historians have disagreed : —

A × D × July × ye 2 × 1758 × Hezekiah
Ford × His × Horn × July × ye 8 × 1758 ×
Ticonerogue × Fight × Began × at
Ten × A × and × Ended × at × Five Acolock
× and × Their × Was × Killed × and × Wounded
2844.

Three powder-horns, for as many soldiers, were apparently made by the same person, and the Williams horn has been described before. On General Putnam's the lines run as follows : —

When Bows & weighty Spears were usd in Fight
twere nervous Limbs Declard a man of might
But now Gunpowdr Scorns such Strength to own
And Heroes not by Limbs but souls are shown.
W A R

Capt Israel Putnam.

This has also "A plan of the stations From Albany to Lake George;" "the River;" "the Road."

The third of these is in Salem, Mass., and the lines follow the inscription, which reads, "David Baldwin, Esq^r. his horn made at Fort W^m Henery Oct^{br} ye 18th, 1756."

A fine Revolutionary horn was "Made by Micah Briard," and bears the further inscription :—

Lieut X Ezra X Beaman X his X horn X
Made X at X Fox X Poynt X so ; calld X
In X Dorchester X September X
The 30 ye 1775 X in X Thomas Gage's
War who came to Boston ye Americans
For to enslave and take their Rights
Away.

Though dated some months later, this is reputed to have been carried at Bunker Hill, a claim not always to be allowed. One, however, dug up at Bunker Hill, is now in South Boston. The inscription suggests modern socialism, or something more,— "Jonathan X Gardner X His X Horn 1776. Liberty and Property X or Death." Soldiers are marching in a line, and there are other well-drawn figures.

Another, owned by Col. David H. Gilman, of Tamworth, N. H., has a simple and quaint inscription : "David Gilman His Horn mead August the 6. 1759. A so forth." This has many figures. Gilman served under Washington in Braddock's army.

Perhaps most of the more western hunters and soldiers would have contented themselves with "A so forth," as Boone and his kinsmen thought simple initials quite enough, but these did not satisfy William Whitley, who went from Virginia to Kentucky in 1775. His powder-horn now belongs to a granddaughter living in Crab Orchard, Ky. The lines are :—

Wm. Whitley I am your horn
The truth I Love a lie I Scorn
Fill me with best of powder
Ile make your rifle Crack the Lowder
See how the dread terrifick ball
Make Indians bleed and torey's fall
You with powder Ile Suply
For to defend your Liberty.

A very remarkable powder-horn belongs to Mrs. Elias Chellis, Claremont, Sullivan County, N. Y. It is inscribed, "Geo X Odiorne. Anno Domini 1776," but is said to have been made three years earlier. An English peer holds a prostrate woman by the arm, a doctor grasps her feet, and another takes her by the throat with his left hand, pouring tea into her mouth with his right. The "Boston Port Bill" protrudes from his pocket. The woman is America, and beside her head Liberty turns away weeping. Soldiers stand around,

and under the group is the legend, "The Able Doctor or America Swallowing The Bitter Draught." Above are ships inscribed, "Boston Cannonaded." There are several groups of a different character, all finely done. The principal part of this group is on the title-page of the "N. Eng^d Almanack for 1777," and this makes it probable that it was engraved in the year in which it was dated.

Although many geographical horns were made by Sullivan's men, in the Indian campaign of 1779, I have seen a representation of but one, which was probably made at the camp at Honeoye, but finished and dated later. It is inscribed, "John Coon, His Horn, 1780." Among the Indian names are Caugua (Cayuga), Waygo (Owego) Scutchquag, Tioga, and Chemung.

One owned at Downington, Ohio, has on it, "James Hill. His Horn 1774." As preceding the Revolution, this retains the British arms. "A Couple of Jack Tars," is the sentence below two sailors; "Mister Nathan^l Low," is beneath a gentleman and lady; and some of the animals are labelled, as "The Moose," "The Bear," "The Rabit." On some other horns the initials of the animals' names appear.

One at Springfield, Mass., has "Liberty," under a liberty tree. Also, "Nathan Plumer His Horn made by him, 1777." On this parties of soldiers are beginning to fire at each other.

A fine powder-horn appears in "Lossing's Historical Record," 1873. It is thus inscribed:—

Elnathan Ives His Horn
Made at Lake George. September ye 22^d A. D. 1758.
I powder With My Brother Baul.
A Hero like do Conquer All.
Steel not this Horn for Fear of Shame
For on it is the Oners Name.
Roos is Red the Grass is Green
The Days Are past Which I have Seen.

Among those in the possession of the Connecticut Historical Society is one with somewhat of a clerical air,—"Parson Marther His Horn Made at Lake George October 13th ye 1758." The decorations are a sloop and flowers. The "fighting parson's" name naturally recalls the old New England worthies, Cotton and Increase Mather, but may have had nothing to do with the family.

A horn preserved by the family at Hopkinton, N. H., has a soldier's record of his battles, though with one date misplaced: "Cap^t × Iohn × Hale × of Hopkinton × N × H × Stark's Regt. Bunker × Hill × Long Island × 1776: June 17 × 1775. Saratoga × 1777." These may have been added from time to time, for the natural inference is that the horn went with him through the war.

Without rhyme or extended expression, a single word sometimes reveals the patriotic feelings of the soldier, as in "George Morley his horn Charles Tun Camp No 3 Dec^r ye 17th A. D. 1775," where the word "Liberty" showed the motive which had brought him to the camp before Boston. Others had more to say, as "William X Hardy X 1776 X His X Powder X Horn X made October 30 — at X Mount X Independance X in X defence X of X Americain Liberty. M. I. Hand."

One interesting example has the only perspective view of Fort William Henry, with the sentry box outside, and a boat towing the sloop toward the island opposite. The inscription is, "Michael. B. Goldthwait. horn. 1756. At Fort W^m henry Octo^{br} 2 A. D." The fort was captured the following year.

Another, now at Canaan Centre, N. H., has an unusual couplet :—

What I contain shall freely go
to bring a haughty tyrant low.

The first owner had his name engraved: "John Calfe His Horn made at Mount Independence Apl. 1777." It has a fine plan of Fort Ticonderoga, on which the maker looked down, with "Citadel," "Battery," "Bridge," "Ty Fort," "Way to Mills," "French Lines," and "South Bay."

The Spencer family, of Laconia, N. H., preserved an ancestor's powder-horn. It reads :—

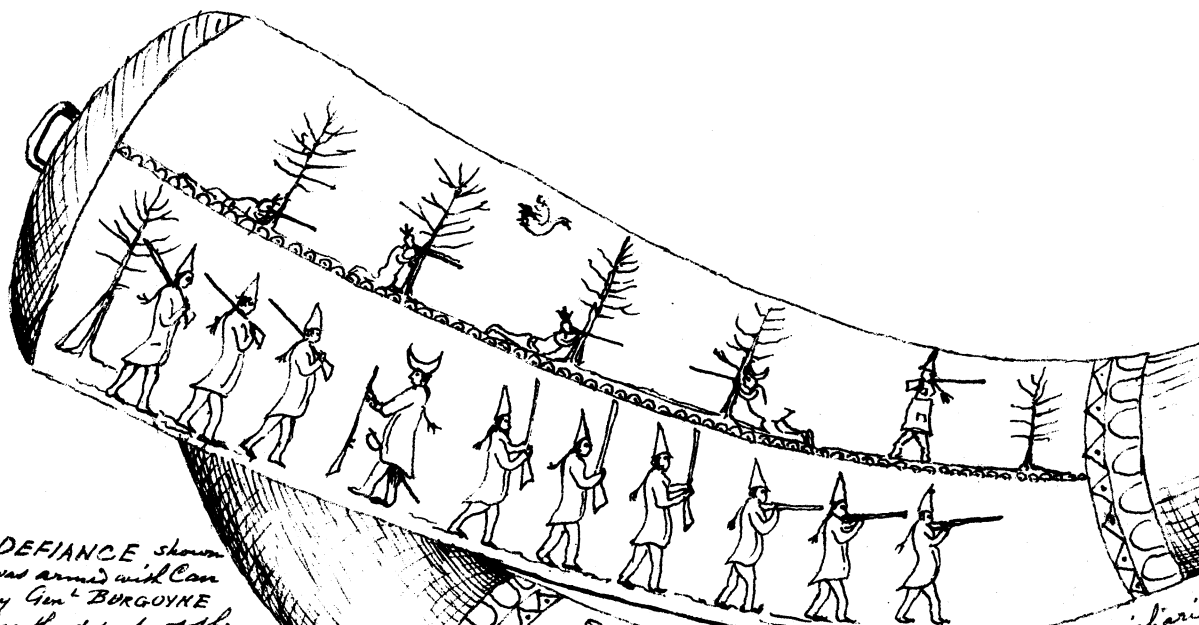
Hobart Spencer's Horn X Dated —
Crown Point X Nov^r 1 X 1759.
Men of might they take Delight
In gun & sword that they may fight.

Cavalry and infantry are engaged in battle, and there are other figures.

One now in Nebraska has on the bottom "Harmon Stebens," and "H. Stebens" on the side. The earlier inscription is, "1779 John Graham^s Captn." It is a geographical horn, having West Point on it, and some spirited scenes. There is also a trophy on one side, with "United we Stand, Devided . we . fall. Honours of War."

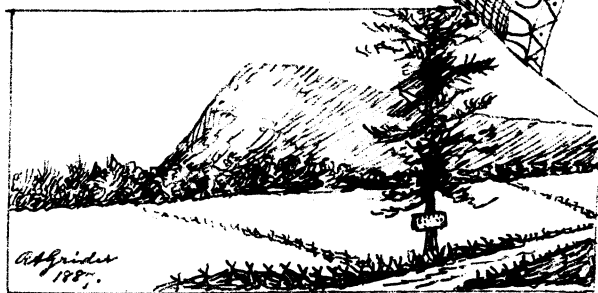
One, of the last war with Great Britain, has an eagle pecking at a lion, and the legend, "The great American Eagle gets away with the little British Lion. 1814." Others have like sarcasms.

Some horns have the original inscriptions added to by later hands, as in the concluding words of the following: "Jabez X Rockwell X of X Ridgebury, Conn. His Horn X made X in X Camp X at X Valley X Forge X first X used X at X Monmouth X June 28, 1778 X & Last X at Yorktown, 1781. May it be sacredly kept is the wish of his Grandson Charles F. Rockwell." The change of style is evident.



*McDEFIANCE shown
 here was armed with Can
 non by Gen^l BURGUYNE
 causing the defeat of the
 Am. Army under Gen^l SCLAIR
 at TICONDEROGA in 1777.*

*Charles A. Grider of Canajoharie
 1887.*

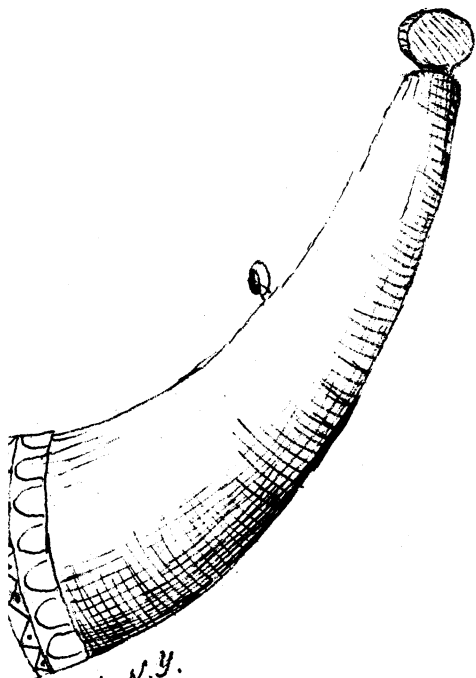


*Ch. Grider
 1887.*

*Battle field where ABERCROMBIE was defeated by MONTCALM
 July 8, 1758. a PINE TREE along the pub. road bore in 1887 the
 following inscription. "ABERCROMBIE'S DEFEAT by MONTCALM
 " JULY 8. 1758. 15,000 repulsed by 4000, British loss 2000. "*

SV
*David Sturgis
 Made At lake ge*

*This Horn was m.
 Commanded at the
 War. It shows the
 recruits are drilled
 Indians in the fo*



*Eschscholtz N.Y.
1887.*



*was made when Genl Abercrombie
at Lake George, during the French
and Ft Wm Henry, the Lake - where
trilled & then led to fight the
the forest -*

The Connecticut Historical Society has one with this recent inscription : " This horn was made during one of his College vacations by Capt. Nathan Hale The Martyr Spy. the animal from which it was taken was raised by Hale's father. Bequethed by Wm. Roderick Lawrence 1856 to the Conn. Hist^l So. at Hartford." The horn is plain.

A Revolutionary horn, long in possession of a Scotch family in Canada, was taken from an American soldier. The inscription is : " Liberty or Death 1779. John Humphris August 19. Death before Dishonor."

Occasionally an inscription is puzzling, as in the one of " I. S. 1776. John smith Sanborn In kennsin." This has also, " The Rode To Crown Poynt. E. D. C." There are perplexing words, too, in one " made at Camp Sep 22.. 1758. Lake george 1758. Ezra Dodge. Wise men wonder Great men Invent and Fools Believe.

Steel not this horn For Fear of Sham
For on it Has the oner's naim.
Hard Times I find."

There is also a sloop marked " 163 Tyn," and over it, " Called the George At Lake. A Sloop made Fac x m Ert of hala." This may refer to a sloop previously sunk at the head of Lake George.

Sometimes there was an attempt at a puzzle. One horn has, in Old English capitals, " John Bunker, Owner, Nantucket, 5810," he being evidently a Freemason. Then comes a file of soldiers marching : " American Volunteers. Liberty or Death." Below are two lines in cipher : —

Th4' S472 728 192 f446s 38 d3sg53s2,
Wh28 th45 921^d th3s 62198 t4 b2 w3s2. 1810.

The key is simple, the first five numerals representing the vowels ; 6 is *l*, and 7, 8, 9 are respectively *m*, *n*, *r*. Without the date the lines are : —

Tho' some men are fools in disguise,
When thou read this learn to be wise.

As a further puzzle, there is a circle inclosing the old " three in a row," " Nine digits Counting fifteen each way." The maker was also a sailor. Whaleboats are " Going to market." A man-of-war is " The Chesapeake ;" two square-rigged vessels are the " Abigail " and " Alknomac."

Another expresses a sailor's admiration : " U. S. Ship Ranger. 1776. Paul Jones a hero." Jones took command of the Ranger in June, 1777.

One in Concord is interesting from its coat of arms. Between the lion and the unicorn, on the shield, is " Liberty," and on a scroll beneath, " Success to America." The crest is a Continental soldier,

with a drawn sword. There are various spirited scenes, and the inscription is, "John Noyes His Horn."

Another has the only reference to the Declaration of Independence which I have seen, and belongs to the New Hampshire Historical Society: "Iohn : Abbot : H : H : 1776 : Independence : De^d : July : 1776." In this "H : H :" stands for "his horn."

Hunters may have been more profane than soldiers, for in all the military examples I have seen there is scarcely an approach to this vice, and but a suggestion in the following from a New York hunter :—

The man who steals this horn
Will go to Hell so sure as he is born.
I. James Fenwick of Ogdensburg
Did the year of 1817 kill 30 wolf
10 bear ; 15 deer
and 46 partridges.

I have mentioned the fact that these powder-horns were not all engraved by their owners, even if made by them. In camps and forts, artistic ability of this kind would be recognized and in demand, and to this fact is due the beauty of some examples. In general, however, the maker and engraver were one, and this is often emphasized. Here is an instance :—

William :: Forsaith : His Powder Horn : made : in Febrvary : The : 16 : in The
year :: 1763 : made :: By : me : W : F.

This is well ornamented, and is said to have been made by him while a prisoner in Quebec, but the date is later than the capture of that fortress.

These are a few examples from Mr. Grider's beautiful collection, which it has been my privilege several times carefully to examine. He certainly has been fortunate in finding so much of real value in this curious and long-neglected field.

W. M. Beauchamp.